

In the Claims

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A filter element, comprising:

a filter medium with opposite first and second end areas surrounding a longitudinal axis;

first and second end caps coupled to said first and second end areas, respectively, by cement beds forming an insulating layer between each said end cap and the respective end area, said end caps having major planes extending generally perpendicularly to said longitudinal axis;

a support tube supporting said filter medium on one side of said filter medium; and

contact pins on at least said first end cap for dissipating electrostatic charges occurring in filter element operation, said contact pins penetrating the respective cement bed making dissipative contact with said filter medium, each of said contact pins having opposite ends portions with one end portion penetrating the respective cement bed and fixedly connected to said first end cap separately from the respective cement ~~bed~~bed and the other end portion being a free end portion extending generally parallel to said longitudinal axis from said first end cap.

13. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein

said first end cap and said contact pins are formed of a plastic with a conductivity additive.

14. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein said first end cap and said contact pins have conductive coatings.
15. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein said first end cap and said contact pins are formed of an intrinsically conductive plastic.
16. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein said filter medium comprises a pleated or cylindrically shaped filter mat with filter plies in several layers on top of one another and of entirely or partially dissipative plastic materials.
17. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 16 wherein said filter mat is reinforced on one side with fabric materials of plastic or metal.
18. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein said filter medium is supported on said support tube in a fluid flow direction through said filter medium, said support tube comprising passages and being of plastic material.
19. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein said contact pins are of conductive metal or dissipative plastic.
20. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein said contact pins are arranged in circles concentric to a longitudinal axis of the filter element.

21. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein
said first end cap comprises inside and outside projecting annular surfaces receiving said
first end area of said filter medium therebetween.

22. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 12 wherein
said first end cap comprises a connecting part for fixing the filter element in a filter
housing; and
a dissipative seal is on said first end cap for engaging the filter housing.

23. (previously presented) A filter element according to claim 22 wherein
said seal is an O-ring.